

Canadian Women's Archives

CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARCHIVES is a regular feature of *Atlantis* and is designed to give a voice to Canadian women who, in the past, have had something to say about the role and condition of women. Diaries, letters, oral history and government documents are just a few of the sources that might usefully be tapped to enhance our understanding of women's history. The Editors of *Atlantis* urge readers to search attics, archives and ash cans for such material and submit it for publication.



Women's Studies Collections in the University of Waterloo Library*

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The University of Waterloo Library, although a relatively new institution having celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1982, has amassed a large book and archive collection of research materials relating to the history of women. Supplemented by the Library's general collection of some 1.7 million volumes, the bulk of the primary source of materials for women's studies is housed in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room. This repository contains over 18,000 rare books and about 125 archives collections. By far the longest established and most active of the many subject collections currently being developed is that relating to the history of women. The major focus of the collecting activity has been to acquire materials of Canadian interest in women's studies, and this national and Canadian strength is supported by materials published from the sixteenth through to the twentieth century from an international range of sources. While all materials in the Rare Book Room are in their original format, some items in the Library's general collection are of necessity in

reprint or micro format. The purpose of the paper is to detail the history and describe the contents of the Library's resources relating to women's studies with the major emphasis being placed on those items housed in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room.

The history of the University's interest in women's studies explains in part the presence of both a rare book collection and a general stacks collection relating to the study of almost all disciplines from a woman's perspective. The beginnings of the collection can be traced back to 1965 and a happy coincidence - the interest in women's studies shown by the first University Librarian, Mrs. Doris Lewis, and the unique centennial project being planned for 1967 by the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC). From 1954 to 1965 the NCWC, as a project of their Arts and Letters Committee, had been amassing a collection of books by and about women in order to provide a Canadian counterpart to such collections as England's Fawcett Library on the His-

tory of Women and the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe College. The National Council eventually named the collection the "Lady Aberdeen Library on the History of Women" in honour of Lady Ishbel Aberdeen, the wife of one of Canada's Governors-General and the founder and first president of the National Council, who had also served as the President of the International Council of Women for nearly twenty years. In 1965, the National Council decided to seek a permanent home for their collection which by then numbered some 2000 items. After considering several Canadian repositories they visited Mrs. Lewis at the eight year-old University of Waterloo and "liked tremendously what they saw and what they heard."¹ It was decided that the collection should come to Waterloo and with the collection came the sum of two thousand dollars to cover the costs of processing and integrating the collection into the Library's system.

The story of those collecting years and the enthusiasm and involvement of the National Council members across Canada, as well as the contributions made by various other National Councils, has been told in a 1967 pamphlet published jointly by the Canadian National Council and the University of Waterloo Library. This pamphlet has recently been reprinted in the catalogue of the Lady Aberdeen Library, compiled by Jane Britton and published by the Library as No. 7 in its Bibliography Series.²

Paralleling the growth of the Library's collections were the teaching and publishing activities of a number of University of Waterloo faculty members in the 1970s. Since 1971 the University had been offering courses designed to approach the study of women from various perspectives and in 1972 one of these faculty members, Margaret Eichler, along with Marylee Stephenson from the University of Windsor [Ontario], founded the journal *Canadian Newsletter of Research on Women*, with a grant from the University of

Waterloo.³ Eichler and Stephenson have been called "scholars who pioneered the field of Women's Studies in Canada"⁴ and Eichler along with Linda Fischer, Dr. Rota Lister and numerous other faculty members taught many courses relating to women at the University of Waterloo in the 1970s. Most recently, the University has formalized its programme of courses relating to this relatively new focus in research under a "Women's Studies Programme," offered jointly by the University of Waterloo and a neighbouring institution, Wilfred Laurier University. Throughout the past decade, the Library has been acquiring material to support the teaching and research of the students and faculty members of the University of Waterloo, and thus the general stacks collection of monographs, periodicals, government documents and micro-materials provides contemporary resources for such a study.

In addition to acquiring materials to support course work, the Library experienced a phenomenon common to institutions receiving such large gifts as the Lady Aberdeen Library. Following the publicity and scholarly activity surrounding the 1967 gift, many valuable donations of books and archives relating to women were made to the Library. Most notable among these gifts were two important donations, the first being the 200 volume library of books formed by the Canadian Women's Press Club (Toronto Branch) and the second a cheque, to be used to acquire additional materials, from the Canadian Federation of University Women representing the profits from the sale of their Centennial volume *The Clear Spirit: Twenty Canadian Women and their Times* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966) edited by Mary Quayle Innis. Donations of books to complement the Lady Aberdeen Library have continued with the most recent gift being one received from the National Council of Women - the second volume of "*We Twa*" (London: Collins, 1925), the reminiscences of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, which has always been an important desiderata item in

the collection. Other large and important grants came from various Ontario government agencies and these grants were consolidated into what the Library termed "Project HERS." This project analysed and prepared indexing systems for various portions of the women's studies collection with the most visible result being the publication of the *Catalogue of the Lady Aberdeen Library*.

The collection of rare books of interest to women's studies researchers covers a range of some four hundred years with the earliest item in the collection bearing the imprint 1545. This book by Frederico Luigini is entitled *Il libro della bella donna* (Venetia: Pietrasanta, 1545) which has been roughly translated as "The book of fair women." Next in chronological order is a small 31-page pamphlet by German theologian Simon Gedik. Entitled *Defensio sexus muliebris, opposita futilissimae disputationi recens editae, qua surppresso authoris & typographi nomine, blasphemie contenditur, mulierres homines non esse* (Lipsiae: Michael Lantzenberger, 1595) its author addresses the question of the degree of humanity possessed by women and men and attempts to answer the critics of his day who felt women's humanity was less than that of men. Containing many marginal annotations and notes in a contemporary hand, this sixteenth-century title represents the earliest item in the collection that is totally devoted to the question of women's role and place in society.

The seventeenth century, an era only recently being studied in depth from the women's perspective, is represented by several titles in the collection. Included here are such biographical works as *The exemplary lives and memorable acts of nine of the most worthy women in the world* (London: Cotes for Royston, 1640) and commentaries including Thomas Comber's *Occasional Offices of matrimony* (London: M.C. for Brome and Clavel, 1679). The difficulties of assessing women's place in society in an earlier era have been discussed by many historians and

two seventeenth-century works giving views of this place are important documents of that era. The legal status of women in England in the seventeenth century is outlined in T.E.'s *The lawves [sic] resolutions of women's rights* (London, 1632) although it is now felt that the facts of law given in such treaties and reality of the times often differed considerably. A more philosophical view is expressed in William Austin's essay defending women in the "women question" - *Haec homo, wherein the excellency of the creation of woman is described, by way of an essay* (London, by Richard Olton for Ralph Mabb, 1637). The history of the education of women in this century and earlier is revealed by writings published in later centuries by such humanists as Sir Thomas More whose *The life of Sir Thomas More*, (London: for James Woodman and David Lyon, 1726) speaks of educating his three daughters. Another eighteenth-century treatise, Roger Ascham's "The Scholemaster" was included as a part of *The English Works of Roger Ascham* edited by James Bennet (London: for R. and J. Dodsley, 1746) and relates some of Ascham's theories and practices while employed as tutor to Queen Elizabeth I.

The eighteenth century was an era in which European women, as well as men, experienced vast social, political and economic changes. The published output of this century reflects these ongoing changes and continues some of the debates of an earlier century. An example of this continuing debate is the positive view of women of Agrippa von Nettesheim, which first appeared in Latin in 1529 and was translated into French and appeared in the eighteenth century as *Sur la noblesse & excellence du sexe feminin* (Leiden: Haak, 1726). Other statements on women's role included Feijoo y Montenegro's "Defensio de la mugeres" included in his *Teatro critico universal* (Madrid: 1765) and *The female aegis: or, the duties of women* (London: Low, 1798). Traditionalist views of women and their role in society

are expressed by Thomas Gisborne in *An inquiry into the duties of the female sex* (London: Cadell and Davies, 1797) and *The ladies calling* (London: J. Johnson, 1797) by Richard Allestree.

Writings from the feminist viewpoint in the eighteenth century culminated in Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the rights of women, with strictures on political and moral subjects*, which is available in the collection in the second London edition of 1792. Wollstonecraft, the first to write specifically about the political rights of women, has become the symbol of eighteenth-century feminism and an account of her life can be found in the first American edition of her biography, written by her husband William Godwin entitled *Memoirs of Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin* (Philadelphia: Carey, 1979). Other titles by Wollstonecraft in the collection include her *Original stories from real life* (London: J. Johnson, 1798) and her *Memoirs and posthumous works* (Dublin: Burnside, 1798) which contains her famed "The wrongs of woman; or Maria, a Fragment" which was edited by her husband.

Women's equal rights to education in this century, one of the cornerstones of Wollstonecraft's theories, are discussed in a variety of sources representing a range of educational theories including Hannah More's *Strictures on the modern system of female education* (3rd ed. London: Cadell and Davies, 1799) and Hester Chapone's *Letters on the improvement of the mind* (London: Hughs, 1764). Well-educated women were not common at the time but two of the women who did receive recognition for their education and scholarships in this era are Elizabeth Elstob and Caroline Herschel. Elstob, an Anglo-Saxon scholar, in the Preface to her *An English-Saxon homily on the birthday of St. Gregory* (London: Bowyer, 1709) asks and answers the question "What has a woman to do with learning?" Astronomer Caroline Herschel published *Catalogue of stars* (London, 1798) in

conjunction with her brother William in which she reveals her own astronomical discoveries.

Biographical sketches of the era such as Ballard's *Memoirs of British ladies* (London: Evan, 1775), Mary Matilda Betham's *A biographical dictionary of the celebrated women of every age and country* (London: Crosby, 1804) and William Alexander's two volume set *The history of women from the earliest antiquity, to the present time* (London: Strahan and Cadell, 1770) are important sources of information.

One of the strengths of the collection of early printed books lies in the collection of French imprints written either by or about women. Acquired to support courses being given on French women writers as a part of the Women's Studies Programme, this collection contains first or earlier editions of the complete works of Madame de Genlis including her most noted work *Mademoiselle de Clermont* (Londres: 1802) and her three-volume *Les petites emigres* (Hambourg: 1798) which express in part her theories of education. Also included are works by other eighteenth-century writers such as Mademoiselle Francoise de Graffigny whose *Lettres d'un peruviane* (Paris: Briasson, 1759) appear in French with most uniquely, an Italian translation on facing pages published in 1749; the memoirs of Madame de Motteville detailing her life as lady-in-waiting to Anne of Austria and the memoirs of Madame Leprince de Beaumont, the author of over seventy moral and instructive tales for children.

The Rare Book Room's collection of domestic manuals such as cookbooks, household instructors and gardening books have a popular as well as a research value. Giving as they do glimpses into everyday life of another era, the several dozen items in this subject area range from Gervase Markham's *The English house-wife* (London: George Sawbridge, 1675) and his *A new orchard and garden...with the country house-wifes garden for herbs of common use* (London:

George Sawbridge, 1676) to such locally produced items as Edna Staebler's *Food that really schmecks* (Toronto: Ryerson, 1968) which contains information on the life and culture of the Mennonites of Waterloo County. In the absence of original papers to reveal what daily life was like for most eighteenth-century women, the lengthy title-page and illustrations in *The universal cook, and city and country housekeeper* (London; Noble, 1797) and the relatively rare tenth edition of *The housekeeper's instructor; or universal family cook* (London: J. Stratford [1800]) reveal all too clearly how a woman would occupy her day. The presentation inscriptions, often one can assume, from mother to daughter, first aid recipes noted in the margins and scribbled recipes on fly-leaves and endpapers all help to bring to life the domestic routine of an earlier era and add to the charm of these seemingly ordinary volumes. Representing as they do the conventions and standards of their day, items in this group give a realistic view of the domestic routines of earlier years.

Nineteenth century printed works in the collection are dominated by the topic of suffrage, ranging from a play - *A suffragette town meeting: an entertainment in one act* (Boston: Baker, 1872) by Lilian Bridgham to Carrie S. Burnham's *Woman suffrage: the argument of Carrie S. Burnham before Chief Justice Reed* (Philadelphia Citizen Suffrage Association, 1873), to a large series of publications by the National American Suffrage Association. Equally as important as suffrage in the nineteenth century materials are the many examples of the literary output of women including a wide range of periodicals.

In writing on the periodical collection at the Schlesinger Library, Janet Wilson James of that library, has stated that "probably no single source tells so much about the interests, values and aspirations of ... women as the magazines published for their consumption."⁵ The University of Waterloo has recently acquired a large col-

lection of periodicals which will undoubtedly confirm this. The collection was acquired with the assistance of a grant from the programme operated by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to strengthen collections of national significance in Canadian university libraries. The collection itself consists of 35,000 issues of women's periodicals published in England from 1893 to 1977. These issues have been uniformly bound by their publisher Amalgamated Press in 1842 separate volumes and represent the complete runs of most of Amalgamated's publications. Formed in 1891 by Alfred Harmsworth, Amalgamated's sole purpose was to publish women's magazines and included in the collection is the complete run of its first publication *Forget-Me-Not: A Pictorial Journal for Ladies* and its successor *Forget-Me-Not Novels* which is present in all 369 numbers published from 1919 to 1926. One of the longest runs in the collection is represented by *Women's World: A Home Journal for Every Lady* which was published from 1903/4 to 1958. Also included are many titles which were published serially and as separate novels and were works of popular fiction at that time.

The richest area in the Library's rare book collections relating to women is the section devoted to Canadian themes and writers. Foremost among this group is an item referred to as the "first English novel in a Canadian setting" - the four-volume *History of Emily Montague* (London: Dodsley, 1769) written by Mrs. Frances (Moore) Brooke. Brooke had accompanied her husband, the first Church of England clergyman in Quebec, to Canada in 1763 and it is believed that this novel, or at least the notes for its creation, were begun by Brooke while in Quebec. Dedicated to Guy Carleton, the Governor of Quebec, the novel describes in detail both the scenery and the social life of the Quebec and Sillery regions. Another important early work relating to women is the collection's earliest Canadian imprint and an item said to be the first printed Canadian biography, *la vie de la vener-*

able soeur Marguerite de Bourgeois (Ville-Marie [i.e. Montreal]: Gray, 1818), detailing the life of a notable seventeenth century Canadian woman who was beatified in 1950.

Nineteenth century Canadiana is highlighted by pioneer literature and tales of the difficulties encountered while settling a land with an often inhospitable climate. The cheerfulness and fortitude with which most women faced this challenge make these items among the most fascinating in the collection. The earliest of this genre is the output of two of the three Strickland sisters who had emigrated to Canada from England, namely Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Traill. First or early editions of many of their works are available and include the first British and first American editions of two of Moodie's most famous works, *Roughing it in the bush; or life in Canada* (London: Bentley, 1853 and New York: George Putnam, 1852) and *Life in the clearings versus the bush* (London: Bentley 1853 and New York: De Witt and Davenport [1854]). Traill's early literary output is represented by the first British edition of *The backwoods of Canada: being letters from the wife of an emigrant officer* (London: Knight, 1836) and the first American editions of *The Canadian crusoes* (New York: C.S. Francis, 1858) and *Stories of the Canadian forest* (New York: C. S. Francis, 1857).

The collection contains a variety of later works in the genre many of which reflect Canada's geographical diversity. These include Sir Wilfred Grenfell's autographed copy of his wife's book *Le petit nord; or annals of a Labrador harbour* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, n.d.) which she, Anne Grenfell wrote in conjunction with Katie Spalding; *I live in paradise* (Winnipeg; Bluman Bros, 1942), Margaret Galloway's autographed copy of her early life in Brandon, Manitoba which includes numerous turn of the century photographs and *The new north: being some account of a woman's journey through Canada to the Arctic* (New York: Appleton, 1912) by Agnes Deans Cameron. Also in-

cluded are *Five years in western Canada: a Paisley lady's letters, 1909 to 1914* (Paisley [?] 1914) which was published anonymously by Molly Collinge, and Martha Louise Black's autographed copy of her *My ninety years* (London: Nelson, 1938) which complements her collection of papers housed in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room. Other earlier accounts of Canadian woman settlers include *The Christian heroine Canadienne du nord-ouest, ou biographie de Marie-Anne Gaboury* (Montreal: Cadieux & Derome, 1833) by George Dugas.

Diaries kept by Canadian women have been found to be enlightening not only for women's history but quite naturally for the larger history of the period in which they were being written. First among these diaries was Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, wife of the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper-Canada, who came to Canada in 1791. Her entertaining diaries, along with her many sketches, were first published in 1911 under the title *The diary of Mrs. Simcoe, with notes and biography by John Ross Robertson* (Toronto: Briggs, 1911) and have remained an invaluable historical source. The next outstanding diary writer in chronological order was Mrs. Anna Jameson, and the 1852 second edition of her diaries published under the titles *Sketches in Canada, and rambles among the red men* (London: Longman Brown Green, 1852), although less lively than the original 1838 edition, does provide an interesting account of her journeys. A last very important chronicle is that of Matilda Edgar, later Lady Edgar, whose family letters were published under the title *Ten years of Upper Canada in peace and war 1805-1815* (Toronto: Briggs, 1895).

Books by lesser and often almost unknown Canadian women writers are also available. Many of these are of local interest and include a novel entitled *The Cromaboo mail carrier* (Guelph: [Ontario], 1878) written by Mary Leslie under the pseudonym James Thomas Jones. Copies of this murder mystery story were im-

mediately withdrawn by Miss Leslie due to the uproar caused by its publication. Based on thinly disguised names and places in the vicinity of Drumbo, Ontario, the novel caused such distress among the local citizens that its distribution was stopped by Miss Leslie and few copies have come to light in the last one hundred years. Narratives of Indian captivities are relatively infrequent occurrences in Canadian literature and one of the most interesting was written by two women in 1885. A brief and authentic account by Theresa Gowanlock and Theresa Delaney, *Two months in the camp of Big Bear*, published in 1885 contains the story of two women who accompanied their husbands to Frog Lake just as the North West Rebellion of 1885 broke out. Both women describe in the narrative the murder of their husbands before their eyes and their subsequent wanderings on the prairies until they were rescued by the Mounted Police.

Other collections in the Rare Books Room, although not acquired with women's studies in mind, have been found to have rich research potential. Largest of these is the Henry H. Crapo Dance Collection, described as "the only sizeable special collection of rare materials relating to the history of dance and ballet found in any collection in Canada"⁶ which contains a number of items useful for women's studies. These items range from Raoul Feuillet's landmark treatise of 1704 *Recueil de dances* (Paris: Chez Feuiller, 1704) containing as it does dances recommended "tant pour homme que pour femmes" to the very fine library of a Belgian dancer who danced under the stage name of "Isa Belli." Isa Belli's library contains some of the most important treatises on dance and was collected by her from 1945 to 1966. In 1967 Dr. Crapo, a former University of Waterloo faculty member and donor of the nucleus collections, purchased many of the books in her collection and in 1979 the University of Waterloo was able to purchase a further portion of the personal library of this ballerina, most noted for her work in keeping dance alive

in Belgium during the period of the second World War. The library has recently acquired, with the assistance of a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, a second library of books formed by a woman dancer, Hilda Butsova who was for many years understudy to Anna Pavlova. Butsova's great personal interest in publications on Pavlova as well as on other significant ballerinas make this collection a rich resource for dance as well as for biography. Biographies and detailed information on both Isa Belli and Butsova are sadly lacking and certainly a study of their personal libraries, as represented in their collection in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room, and of their collecting experiences would shed light on their philosophy and theory of dance. Personal libraries provide a tantalizing glimpse into the lives of the famous and present excellent research potential to the scholar.

Another very large collection, which is made up of writings, engravings and critical works of the English sculptor and author Eric Gill, provides researchers with a unique and individual view of many aspects of social and family history in England from 1916 to 1940. Gill's philosophy and writings on such topics as birth control, dress, costume and beauty, as well as his relationship with several important English contemporaries, such as Beatrice Warde, Faith Ashford and Eleanor Farjeon, provide interesting research opportunities among the over six hundred items in this collection.

An archive collection, and one most illustrative of the latent potential of many collections, is the manuscript diaries of fur trader Donald McKay from 1799-1806. These diaries, the originals of which are housed in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room, were used by Jennifer Brown in her recent study of the Canadian fur trade entitled *Strangers in blood: fur trade company families in Indian country* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1980) and a detailed analysis of these diaries revealed that McKay's life

was made somewhat easier by the presence of his "girl" who figured frequently in his entries.⁷

Another very large group of collections - the private press collections - are a rich resource for material, particularly literary, of early and often ephemeral writings by women. Included here are a large group of items from the Hogarth Press including a first edition of Virginia Woolf's *A room of one's own* (London: Hogarth Press, 1929) as well as a large number of other titles by her. Recent additions to this collection include first editions of three of Woolf's first four publications. In chronological order these include *The voyage out* (London: Duckworth, 1915) in its original green cloth boards; *The mark on the wall* (Richmond: Hogarth, 1919) which is imprinted "second edition" but which is, in fact, the first separate appearance of Woolf's story; and *Night and Day* (London: Duckworth, [1919]). The first American and first trade editions of *Orlando* (New York: Crosby Gage, 1928 and London: Hogarth, 1928), a work which links the life and work of Virginia Woolf with that of Vita Sackville-West, have also been acquired. *Orlando* which Woolf dedicated to "V. Sackville-West," was published in a trade edition by Woolf and her husband at their Hogarth Press and the recently-acquired copy contains the white dust-jacket printed in black with illustrations.

Private press editions of other women writers are also available and, in the Canadian context, the almost complete set of "Ryerson Poetry Chapbooks" contains a large number of titles by lesser-known Canadian writers. Works of Victoria Sackville-West, Edith Sitwell, and others are frequently found in these collections.

It is, however, in the area of archives that the University of Waterloo collections are strongest, and it is in using such primary resources that the most significant and exciting research on the history of Canadian women is being done, both at the University of Waterloo and elsewhere. In contrast to most Canadian institutions, the Uni-

versity of Waterloo's collections of women's papers were developed from the first as resources for the study of the history of women and thus do not suffer from the problems of other institutions in which women's papers are often buried in the papers of their more well-known and usually more powerful male relatives. The difficulties experienced by such institutions and by their researchers in identifying, recovering and assessing such hidden records have been commented on by a number of Canadian writers and most eloquently by Dr. Veronica Strong-Boag.⁸ Strong-Boag's analysis of existing resources and her recommendations to the Canadian archival community are important comments on the need for a systematic and complete retrieval of documentation essential to a comprehensive view of Canadian history from a woman's perspective.

The University of Waterloo archive collections, acquired as they were as a direct result and in many cases as a part of the gift of the Lady Aberdeen Library present a wide range of original resources. Foremost among these collections is that of Dr. Elizabeth Smith Shortt, one of the first three women to graduate in medicine in Canada. Covering some twenty-one feet of shelf space this collection was donated by Dr. Shortt's daughters, Miss Lorraine Shortt and Mrs. Muriel Clarke. A member of the National Council of Women in Canada, Mrs. Clarke was inspired by the 1967 donation of the Lady Aberdeen Library to donate her mother's papers to the University of Waterloo where they have received considerable research attention. Born to a prosperous Ontario farming family in Winona, Ontario, in 1859, Elizabeth Smith first sought a career as a teacher but left teaching to attend Medical School at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Graduating in 1884 after a sometimes stormy student career, Dr. Shortt entered general practice in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1886, she married Dr. Adam Shortt, at that time a faculty member at Queen's University, and took up a teaching position there which she held until 1893. An ardent diarist and letter-writer, Dr.

Shortt's papers amply document her life from her first diary entry in 1872 until her death in 1949. Her diaries, outlining as they do her difficult life at Queen's Medical College are perhaps the most important part of the collection, and portions of the diaries have been edited for publication by Dr. Veronica Strong-Board.⁹ Supplemented as they are by original materials from Elizabeth's sister, Mauritania, her mother Damaris Isabella (McGee) and her daughter, Mrs. Muriel Clarke, this collection covers a broad range of Canadian women's educational, medical and rural experience.

To turn from this, the largest collection in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room, to a collection which numbers among the smallest, takes the researcher to a very important judicial and legal decision affecting Canadian women. This collection is made up of the papers of Judge Emily Murphy and the decision referred to is the so-called "Persons Case" of 1929. Emily Murphy had been appointed in 1916 as the first woman Magistrate in the British Empire and it was she who inaugurated and brought to a successful issue the movement that resulted in the British Privy Council decision of 1929 declaring that women were to be considered "persons" under the terms of what was then Canada's constitution, the British North America Act. As a result of this constitutional ruling, women were given the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada. Although the bulk of Murphy's papers are housed in the City of Edmonton (Alberta) Archives,¹⁰ the University of Waterloo does have a small collection of material relating to the "Person's Case." The library's collection contains the printed government documents both Canadian and British relating to the case, a small amount of correspondence including a letter from Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, a number of photographs and newspaper clippings as well as two notebooks compiled by Judge Murphy during her term as police magistrate in Edmonton. Also included are several reviews of books written by Judge Murphy under her pen

name of "Janey Canuck." The rare book collection holds several first editions of books written under this name including *The impressions of Janey Canuck abroad* (Toronto: 1902), *Janey Canuck in the west* (London: Cassell, 1910), *Open trails* (London: Cassell, 1912), with a dedication inscription from Murphy to her brother Bill, and *Our little Canadian cousins of the great northwest* (Boston: L. C. Page, 1923), which contains a presentation inscription from Murphy to her sister, Annie J. Ferguson. Received from the Emily Murphy Estate are two additional volumes of interest - one which relates to Murphy's work as a Police Court Magistrate entitled *The black candle* (London: Hurst & Blackwell, 1926), on the narcotics habit, and a presentation copy of the 1945 biography of Murphy entitled *Emily Murphy, crusader* (Toronto: MacMillan, 1945) written by her daughter Byrne Hope Sanders.

Legal decisions relating to the status and interest of Canadian women are the focus of another collection housed in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room - the Dorothea Palmer Papers. Miss Palmer, an employee of the Parents' Information Bureau of Kitchener Ontario, was arrested in 1937 near Ottawa on a charge of distributing birth control information, at that time an offence under Section 207 Subsection 2 of the Criminal Code of Canada. Described as having 'established a record for cases heard in Magistrate's Court in Canada,' Miss Palmer's trial occupied twenty full days, the verbatim record of the proceedings extending beyond 750,000 words, the argument a further 120,000 words and the magistrate's written verdict some nineteen folio pages. Among the forty witnesses called at this landmark trial was Kitchener industrialist A.R. Kaufman, the founder of the Parents' Information Bureau, sponsor of Palmer's defense and the donor of the collection. Following Miss Palmer's acquittal on 17 March 1937, the Crown appealed the case and the appeal was dismissed on 2 June 1937. Included in the collection are a series of correspondence between lawyers involved in the case, some of the exhibits entered as evidence in

the trial, and a large series of mounted newspaper clippings which reported the trial in newspapers across Canada. A comparison of these news stories is most revealing of the attitudes towards birth control as expressed in the smaller weekly papers and those in the large dailies.

Following the death of Kaufman in 1979, his Estate donated the remaining files of the Parents' Information Bureau and these two collections present a wide range of material for documenting Canadian attitudes towards birth control from 1930 to World War II. Kaufman had established the Parents' Information Bureau in Kitchener, Ontario, following his discovery of high fertility among the poor and unskilled workers whom he had been forced to lay off in 1929. These files reveal the growth of the Bureau during the 1930's and detail Kaufman's attitudes to birth control as they were revealed in his printed statements. Most recently, the transcription of a 1977 interview with Kaufman has been donated by a researcher and although the transcript and Kaufman's comments on it are restricted, access may be had by applying to the interviewer.

Two other collections, both relating to Canadian medical matters, will be found in the collection. The first of these is the collection of correspondence and clippings of Canadian nurse Catherine Taylor (1874-1967). Born in Clinton (Ontario) Taylor was graduated from St. Luke's Hospital, New York and in 1917 went to England where she worked for the American Red Cross in various hospitals during World War I. The collection contains letters to friends from 1917 to 1967 concerning her work. A second medical collection, in this case centering on World War II will be found in the papers of Dr. Olive Russell, the bulk of whose papers are housed in the Public Archives of Canada. Dr. Russell, a graduate of the University of Toronto, first served as a personnel selection officer for the Canadian Women's Army Corps during World War II. Following this she went to the United States where she was well-known for her work as

psychologist, educator and proponent of legalizing euthanasia. Included in the collection are clippings, a small amount of correspondence and a proof copy of Dr. Russell's best-known work *Freedom to die* (New York: Human Sciences Press, 1975).

Papers of several Canadian women writers are also available in the collection, the largest of these collections is the papers of Isabel Ecclestone Mackay. Surely one of the most neglected of Canadian writers, Mackay published an enormous quantity of material from 1909 to 1928 and yet has received almost no critical attention. The University of Waterloo collection contains copies of Mackay's eighteen separately published works as well as as two scrapbooks compiled by Mackay made up of her periodical publications in the form of essays, poems and short stories. In addition to printed works, the collection, which was donated by Mackay's daughters, contains manuscript material in the form of correspondence with such figures as Pauline Johnson and Bliss Carman, unpublished poems, and short pieces. Ephemeral material also present includes photographs and reviews of Mackay's works clipped from a wide variety of North American sources. Mackay's fictional work include *The House of Windows* (London: Cassell, 1912) "one of the first works of Canadian fiction to attack low wages and bad working conditions for women"¹¹ and *Blencarrow*, (Toronto: T. Allen, 1926) her best-known work which documents life in a Canadian small town.

Equally as neglected as Mackay is fellow Western-Canadian writer Elaine M. Catley. Born in Bath, England, Catley emigrated to Calgary, Alberta in 1915 after her marriage. From 1921 to 1942 she had many poems and feature articles accepted for publication in the *Calgary Herald* and in about forty smaller periodicals; she has also had six small books of verse published. A member of the Canadian Authors Association for 25 years, she served in all offices up to President. She was also a member of the Canadian Wo-

men's Press Club for three years and won a number of prizes for her poems. Her papers contain six manuscript notebooks of poems covering the period 1912 to 1963. Of particular interest are those poems written shortly after Mrs. Catley's arrival in Canada in 1915 giving her impressions of her new homeland. Also included are typescripts and later published versions of these poems, many in the *Calgary Herald* and others in Catley's six published books. Catley's correspondence with Canadian notables such as Nellie McClung, Charles G.D. Roberts, and Laura Goodman Salverson is available. Among Catley's unpublished manuscripts in the collection is one written in 1971 entitled "Reminiscences of early Canadian writers I have known."

Papers and materials of other Canadian writers included in the collection are those of journalist E. Cora Hind. These consist of two audio tapes, printed biographical and photographic material prepared by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation documenting her life, and a scrapbook of articles published by Annie Elizabeth May Hewlett. This scrapbook details the life on "Cannington Manor," a community established by a group of Englishmen in the 1880's in south-eastern Saskatchewan.

Also included in the collection are writers who were non-Canadian but who, in many cases, had connections with other National Councils of Women and thus decided to make their papers a part of the Lady Aberdeen Library on the History of Women. In other cases, small collections were acquired by purchase or donation. Collections received under the former category - as a part of an at times tenuous connection with various Councils of Women - include some pieces of correspondence of Emily Bax, the second woman to be employed as secretary at the American Embassy in London and author of *Miss Bax of the Embassy* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1939). A collection of one linear foot of materials of Alice Riggs Hunt (1884-1974), journalist and suffrage worker, contains papers made up of cor-

respondence with such figures as E. Sylvia Pankhurst, Carrie Chapman Catt and Jane Addams, as well as manuscripts of her unpublished reports of the Paris Peace Conference of 1918. Included in this collection are memorabilia of the type which, although they add little to the scholarly research value of the collection, do wonders to bring to life a particular period. Included in Hunt's papers are souvenirs and realia of various suffrage conferences and meetings of the Votes for Women Party, which include a linen breast banner and a flag in purple and gold imprinted with the slogan "Votes for Women," an accordian style photograph album opening to six feet in length entitled "Parade of Suffragists on Fifth Avenue, New York City, May 6, 1911," in which many of the participants have been identified in manuscript notes on each photograph, and a small china statue of three squawking geese with the phrase "We want our votes" printed on its base.

Another important item, in this case donated by a British author to the National Council of Women of Canada in honour of the death of a Canadian friend, is an 141-page unpublished typescript bound in blue boards with the title in gilt on the upper cover "History of the Canadian Hut." Written by Gladys Lillian King and dated September 1919, the manuscript outlines the work of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. in establishing a "hut" or hostel in London for Canadian soldiers on leave during World War I. King, a member of the Military Women Police, details her experiences under such headings as "Weakness Personified: Showing how men under the influence of alcohol were assisted and cared for, with anecdotes"; "The Greatest Social Problem - being a straightforward talk - from a woman's point of view - on a subject that should concern all thinking people" and "Peace-Victory Marches-Farewell."

Included among non-Canadian papers acquired by purchase or gift is a letter written by Victoria Sackville-West dated March 9, 1944 in

which she discusses the effects of the war on South-West England; an apparently unpublished play by Naomi Gwladys Royde-Smith entitled "Mafro"; two letters written by American suffragette Lucy Stone, founder of the *Woman's Journal* and a letter dated 1838 written by Amelia Opie and inserted in her 1937 biography written by Jacobine Menzies-Wilson and Helen Lloyd.

Papers of two women actively involved in Canadian radio broadcasting are also available in the collection, both having been acquired in conjunction with the gift of the Lady Aberdeen Library. Elizabeth Long's connections with the National Council of Women were very close as she had served as Vice-President of that group as well as Vice-President of the International Council of Women. Long was also the convenor of the project to put together the Lady Aberdeen Library and her papers contain a great deal of information on the formation of that collection. In her professional life, Long worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and was the first woman in that organization to hold an important executive position, that of Supervisor of Women's Interests. In this capacity Miss Long prepared a series of radio broadcasts on women which were said to be the most comprehensive plan of international broadcasts for women of any radio system in the world. The research notes for these broadcasts and the resulting radio scripts all form a part of Long's three foot archive.

The papers of a second broadcaster, Ms. Claire Wallace, also contain both the research notes and finished scripts of various radio shows directed towards women beginning in 1935. An index to all persons mentioned in Wallace's major shows "Teatime Topics" and "They tell Me" has been prepared and provides access to material in the over fourteen feet of radio script scrapbooks compiled by Wallace. In 1942 Wallace had the distinction of being the first woman to broadcast nationally over the CBC network

and in 1946 received the Beaver Award as Canada's top woman commentator.

Papers and manuscripts related to several other careers and areas of interest are also represented in the archives. The role of the politician's wife is reflected in the collection of Martha Louise Black who was the wife of Yukon Governor George Black, and who was elected in 1935 to the Canadian House of Commons. The experience of modern Canadian missionaries is contained in the letters of Beulah Misener Alloway, who died in Kenya in 1954. The papers of potter Alice Mary Hagen and material relating to the sculptors Florence Wyle and Frances Loring are available to users of the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room.

The collection also includes copies of the four hundred and sixty-nine briefs presented to the federal government's "Royal Commission on the Status of Women." Although many of these briefs are classed as "Confidential" the several hundred which are available provide expressions of opinions ranging from those of "A Group of Women, St. Catharines, Ontario" to the "Women of the Saskatchewan Farmers Union." A subject index to these briefs is available for use by researchers.

The formulation of collections development policies which are responsive to women's studies remains a problem due to the interdisciplinary, often controversial, and when connected to the women's movement, political nature of the field. However, the University of Waterloo has attempted to acquire through its collection development policies for each discipline, those materials which are required to provide a large body of primary and secondary source materials for the study of women. In providing these materials the Library has attempted to acquire materials listed in standard bibliographies in the field although most of these bibliographies are related particularly to American sources, viewpoints and needs. However, the collection does contain

a good basic collection and a comparison of holdings to the Stineman's *Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography* reveals that the Library holds 70% of items listed in that publication.

Canadian counterparts to Stineman's are lacking although there are some for certain selected areas such as history, which have been well served by bibliographers. In analyzing the Library's holdings in this particular area, a comparison against the items listed in Light and Strong-Boag's *True daughters of the north: Canadian women's history, a bibliography* (Toronto: Ontario Institute for Studies for Education, 1980) it was found that the collection contained 80% of the items listed. Canadian bibliographical and review publications such as the journal *Resources for Feminist Research* are searched against the Library's holdings on a regular basis for information of newly printed materials while other compilations such as Light and Strong-Boag's *True Daughters of the north: Canadian women's history: an annotated bibliography* (Toronto: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 1980) are used to compile desiderata and want lists.

Older publications, when not acquired specifically for the Rare Books Room collection have been acquired in micro or reprint format. Included here is the large 10,097 item *History of women collection* (Research Publication, Inc.) and the periodical collection entitled *Herstory* representing serial publications from 1956 to 1974 from the International Women's History Periodical Archive prepared by Women's History Research Centre at Berkeley California. Other collections currently available include the following: *Bibliofem*, an ongoing publication of the Fawcett Library in London, which provides a current listing by author, title, subject, and classification to works about women published in the English language; *Women and Health* (Women's History Research Centre) which contains clippings, articles, pamphlets, essays and papers collected between 1968 and

1974 on some 150 subjects; *Les Femmes* a collection of 192 titles on microfiche based on the collection from the Bibliotheque National in France; *Sex Research: Early literature from statistics to erotica, 1700-1860* (Research Publications Inc.) which contains 1000 titles on microfilm and *Marriage Sex and the Family in England, 1660-1800* (Garland Reprint Series) which is a 69 titles facsimile series bound in 44 volumes which documents the origins of the modern family.

Cataloguing and organizing such a collection as that found in the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room is not an easy task. Traditional subject headings and methods of access have long been found inadequate and the cataloguing staff have attempted, while staying within the confines of the Library's general cataloguing scheme, to provide additional points of entry into the collection. To this end a separate card file, very broadly based in scope, of items relating to women has been kept by the staff and contains references and notes directing researchers to particular books or parts of books which might be of relevance to their particular research interests. Other special files maintained in the Rare Books Room have also been found of value and include the provenance and bookplate files, the chronological file arranged by imprint date and the subscription list file. This latter file continues a project on women appearing in eighteenth century subscription lists begun by staff member Jane Britton in conjunction with work being done by the Project for historical bio-bibliography at Newcastle upon Tyne, England.¹² The Department maintains a reference collection containing annotated copies of many of the standard bibliographies previously mentioned.

The resources of the Doris Lewis Rare Book Room are available to all researchers during the Room's hours of opening (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and additional hours of access can usually be arranged by prior appointment. New additions to the collection are detailed in the De-

partment's quarterly *Newsletter* and catalogues and bibliographies describing the collections in greater depth appear at irregular intervals as numbers in the Library's "Bibliography Series."

Notes

* This article also appears in *Special Collections*, Vol. 3 No. 3/4, Spring/Summer 1985. Copyright 1985 by The Haworth Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

1. National Council of Women of Canada, *The Lady Aberdeen Library on the History of Women* (Waterloo: University of Waterloo Library, 1967), p. xiv.
2. University of Waterloo, Library, Lady Aberdeen Collection, *A catalogue of the Lady Aberdeen Library on the History of women in the University of Waterloo Library*. University of Waterloo Library bibliography; no. 7. Compiled by Jane Britton. The catalogue is available for \$10.00 from Jorn Jorgensen, University of Waterloo Library.
3. *Canadian Newsletter of Research on Women*. Vol. (1), May 1972, p.1 This journal is now called *Resources for Feminist Research* and is published with the assistance of the Women's Programme of the Department of the Secretary of State and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.
4. Margaret R. Conrad, "Women's Studies in Canada," *Dalhousie Review*, Vol. 60, 3, (Autumn 1980). p. 5.
5. Janet Wilson James, "History and women at Harvard," *Harvard Library Bulletin*, XVI (October, 1968): 385-399.
6. Clifford Collier, *Dance resources in Canadian libraries*. Ottawa: National Library. Research collections in Canadian libraries. Special studies; 8. 1982, p. 73.
7. Jennifer Brown, *Strangers in blood: fur trade families in Indian country* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1980).
8. Veronica Strong-Boag, "Raising Clio's consciousness: women's history and archives in Canada," *Archivaria*, 6 (Summer 1978), p. 70-82.
9. Elizabeth Smith Shortt, 'A Woman with a purpose' - *The Diaries of Elizabeth Smith 1872-1884* (Toronto: University of Toronto, 1980).
10. Edmonton (Alta.) Archives, *Emily Murphy collection M.S.2*. Prepared by Mary W. Campbell (Edmonton: City of Edmonton Parks and Recreation, 1983).
11. Norah Story, *The Oxford Companion to Canadian History* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1967), p. 490.
12. P.J. and R.V. Wallis *Women Filter* (Newcastle: Project for Historical Biobibliography, 1984).